


MEMORANDUM

DATE	May 3, 2017
TO	Policy and Advocacy Committee
FROM	 Konnor Leitzell Student Assistant
SUBJECT	Agenda Item #6(c)(18) – AB 508 (Santiago) Health Care Practitioners: Student Loans

Background:

Under current law, licensing boards are authorized to cite and fine a currently licensed health care practitioner who is in default on a United States Department of Health and Human Services education loan, including Health Education Assistance Loan. Existing law also authorizes a board to deny an application for licensure or deny renewal of licensure until the loan is cleared or until the applicant or licensee has made satisfactory repayment arrangements.

This bill would remove the provisions authorizing boards to cite and fine a licensee or deny an initial license or renewal on the basis of default on a United States Department of Health and Human Services education loan, including Health Education Assistance Loan.

Location: Assembly Floor

Status: 04/27/2017 Ordered to Assembly Consent Calendar

Votes: 4/26/2017 Assembly Committee on Appropriations (16-0-1)
4/18/2017 Assembly Committee on Higher Education (12-0-1)
4/04/2017 Assembly Committee on Business and Professions (14-0-2)

Action Requested:

No action is required at this time. Staff will continue to watch AB 508 (Santiago) due to its potential impact on the removal of this provision. According to the Enforcement Unit, the Board has not used this provision to cite and fine or take enforcement action against a licensee.

Attachment A: AB 508 (Santiago) text

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AB-508 Health care practitioners: student loans. (2017-2018)

SECTION 1. Section 685 of the Business and Professions Code is repealed.

~~685. (a) (1) A board may cite and fine a currently licensed health care practitioner if he or she is in default on a United States Department of Health and Human Services education loan, including a Health Education Assistance Loan:~~

~~(2) Each board that issues citations and imposes fines shall retain the money from these fines for deposit into its appropriate fund:~~

~~(b) The board may deny a license to an applicant to be a health care practitioner or deny renewal of a license if he or she is in default on a United States Department of Health and Human Services education loan, including a Health Education Assistance Loan, until the default is cleared or until the applicant or licensee has made satisfactory repayment arrangements:~~

~~(c) In determining whether to issue a citation and the amount of the fine to a health care practitioner or to deny a license to an applicant to be a health care practitioner or to deny the renewal of a license, a board shall take into consideration the following:~~

~~(1) The population served by the health care practitioner:~~

~~(2) The health care practitioner's economic status:~~

~~(d) For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:~~

~~(1) "Board" means a licensing board or agency having jurisdiction of a licensee, but does not include the Board of Chiropractic Examiners:~~

~~(2) "Health care practitioner" means a person licensed or certified pursuant to this division or licensed pursuant to the Osteopathic Initiative Act:~~

~~(e) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2003:~~